

1160 W. Orange Grove Ave., Arcadia, California 91006, U.S.A.

HABITAT: *PIERIS OCCIDENTALIS*
(PIERIDAE)

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THE WESTERN WHITE, *Pieris occidentalis* Reakirt, is best known to most collectors as a hilltopping species or as a resident of alpine meadows. In such situations it is seldom observed at high density. Like its lowland sibling *P. protodice* Boisduval and LeConte, *P. occidentalis* is preadapted to disturbed, man-made environments and when suitable conditions arise within its altitudinal range it may exploit them and become very abundant. The photograph is of the railroad yard at Norden, California, in Donner Pass at an elevation of about 7000 feet, 28 September 1973. Here the weedy Crucifer *Lepidium virginicum* var. *pubescens* is very abundant and *P. occidentalis* bred at high density in 1973, mating without hilltopping under conditions in which freshly emerged females were readily available (Shapiro, 1975). *P. protodice*, which apparently does not overwinter at Donner Pass, also successfully colonized this railroad yard, coexisting with *P. occidentalis* in 1973. Males of both species patrolled the bare-soil area constantly in sunshine. *P. rapae* Linnaeus bred along the stream bed at the foot of the slope, using the native Crucifer *Rorippa curvisiliqua*.

LITERATURE CITED

- SHAPIRO, A. M. 1975. Ecological and behavioral aspects of coexistence in six Crucifer-feeding Pierid butterflies in the central Sierra Nevada. *American Midland Naturalist*, in press.

